

## **Election of New Board Chair Highlights GUIDE Board**

**Development Plan**--The Writers' Guild, October 2006

**Maureen Mann-Ritz**, who has been a member of GUIDE's Board of Directors since October of 2004 was unanimously elected Board Chair at the organization's Board of Directors Meeting that was held on September 13, 2006. With this election Ms. Ritz, whose involvement with GUIDE extends from the 1980's when she was the Director of the agency's Youth Services Center in Olney, Maryland, becomes the Board Chair of GUIDE Program, Inc. as well as of the organization's two housing subsidiaries, GUIDE Trexler House, Inc., and GUIDE Marywood House, Inc. In her life beyond GUIDE, Ms. Mann-Ritz, who by profession is a professional counselor, heads up the Guidance Department at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville. In addition to her full-time work at DeMatha and her volunteer service with GUIDE, Ms. Mann-Ritz also finds time to conduct a small private counseling practice on the side. Prior to Ms. Mann-Ritz's election as Board Chair she had served as Moderator of GUIDE's board, a position that had been previously held by the Rev. George Taylor, prior to his leaving the area and having to resign from his volunteer service to GUIDE.

According to Scott Birdsong, GUIDE's Executive Director and President, throughout Ms. Mann-Ritz's tenure on the board, she has been particularly instrumental in assisting GUIDE in the area of board development. She has provided leadership toward the goal of helping to empower the board in its overall governance and fiduciary respon-

sibilities. Mr. Birdsong remarked, "we're all very excited about Maureen's new role as Board Chair, and I'm looking forward to working with Maureen in this regard."



**Maureen Mann-Ritz, Chair, presiding  
at GUIDE Board Meeting**

In addition to Ms. Ritz, the agency's Board of Directors currently consists of five other volunteer community leaders. **Wolfgang Riedel**, GUIDE's longest serving Board member, has been on the board since 1972. Dr. Riedel is a clinical psychologist in private practice, and a former faculty member of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. **Marie Schram's** involvement with GUIDE also stems from the early 1970's during which period she spearheaded the founding of the agency's first Youth Services Center in Gaithersburg, serving as its first Director. Ms. Schram, who has been serving on GUIDE's Board since 1986, and who is the senior board member on the Executive and Finance Committee, is employed full-time as the Director of Human Resources for LMI, Inc. **Adona Wimberly** has been on GUIDE's Board since 2005, and she brings to her board service expertise in the substance abuse field as well as knowledge about GUIDE from the inside--having also served for

an earlier period as the Director of the agency's adult drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs in Montgomery County. Dr. Wimberly is currently a faculty member in the Psychology Department at Trinity University in the District of Columbia. Also serving in their first two-year terms on the board are **Danielle LaSure-Bryant** and **Andrew Rhabb**. Dr. LaSure-Bryant is the Director of Clinical Education for the Pastoral Counseling Department at Loyola College's campus in Columbia. Mr. Andrew Rhabb in his full-time professional work is an Assistant Credit Manager/Senior Analyst with Grace Davison, Inc. and with his wife owns and operates the Basket Gourmet Shop and Tiger Lily Florist in Hyattsville. No longer active on the board **Dr. Edward Stefic**, who is retired from the Psychology Department at Catholic University, holds the position of Director Emeritus, having served as part of the organization's board from as early as 1986. GUIDE's Board of Directors also receives input and assistance from two emeriti executives and past officers. **Dr. Richard Wunderlich**, the agency's Founder, first Executive Director and first President along with **Dr. Jewell Lozes**, who holds the honorary position of Vice President Emeritus, also actively participate with the organization's current leadership.

Speaking on behalf of the agency's executive management staff, Mr. Birdsong commented at the end of the

September 13th board meeting, that more and more the wider community is seeking increasing levels of accountability from both the corporate and nonprofit sectors, and is looking to boards, particularly in the nonprofit arena, for very high quality governance and oversight. Further, "as we all know nonprofit human service organizations are being relied upon to provide ever increasing levels of service with resources that are slow to keep pace with the increasing needs and rising costs." These two phenomena present both challenges and creative opportunities for nonprofit boards as they look for ways to ensure accountability while at the same time securing the resources—financial as well as non financial--that are required to meet growing needs." For some time now GUIDE's Board has been positioning itself to meet these challenges and opportunities for the future. A board development plan is in place that calls for continued board growth both in size and governance strategies. It was remarked, "we're all very optimistic about where we'll be able to go and grow in the future. It's the consensus of GUIDE's executive managers that the organization is quite fortunate to have some very talented and dedicated folks working with us as board members."

More information about GUIDE can be found on its website located at [www.GuideProgram.org](http://www.GuideProgram.org) or by email to: [Information@GuideProgram.org](mailto:Information@GuideProgram.org).